



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
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Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Update from the Director	1
About the Board	1
2010 Meeting Dates	2
Board Members and Staff	2
Active Licensees and Expiration Dates	2
Actions Taken by the Board	2-3
License Renewal Process	3-4
Complaint Process Information	4
Frequently Asked Questions	5

working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

About the Board

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy consists of five members: four licensed massage therapists and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

Massage is therapeutic and regulations are necessary to protect the public from unqualified practitioners. It is in the interest of the public to set standards of qualifications, education, training, and experience for those who seek to practice massage therapy; to promote high standards of professional performance for those licensed to practice massage therapy; and to protect the public from unprofessional conduct by persons licensed to practice massage therapy. The Board is assigned to the Secretary of State's office for administrative purposes and is under the jurisdiction of the division director and operates in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 43-1, as applicable.

2010 Meeting Dates

June 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
 August 27, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
 October 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
 December 10, 2010 9:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage

Board Members and Staff

Jane Johnson, Chair
 Kathy Lescak, Vice-Chair
 Melony Phillips
 Steve F. Earles

Brig Zimmerman
 Executive Director
 Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

Active Licensees

Massage Therapist: 5,265

Expiration Dates

Massage Therapist – October 31 of even numbered years

"It is illegal to work as a massage therapist with an expired license."

Actions Taken by the Board

February: The Board voted to deny the following request:

- Jason Haug: Petition for Rule Variance/Waiver Request: O.C.G.A. §43-24A-8 (c)

Following the Public Hearing, the Board voted to issue a cease and desist order to the following individual for unlicensed practice:

- Jun Wu, Duluth

The Board voted to approve 23 applications for licensure by application, one application for licensure by reinstatement, two applications for licensure by endorsement, and one application for inactive status.

The Board voted to ratify the following list of individuals who signed cease and desist orders for unlicensed practice processed between Board meetings per policy:

- Kun Cha Pak, Doraville
- Ki Jordan, Doraville
- Mi Suk Litzenberger, Doraville
- Wang Min Zie, Doraville
- Min Zhang, Doraville
- Xiu Yun Dong, Doraville
- Wang Jinq, Duluth

- Ming Jun Zherg, Duluth
- Mei Zhen Yu, Duluth
- Guang Quan, Duluth
- Guo Rung Lan, Duluth
- Min Li, Lawrenceville
- Joanna Williams, McDonough
- Betty Jo Collins Osler, Thomaston
- Ron So, Tucker
- Kyong Suk Woo, Tucker
- Sun Hwa Kim, Tucker
- Hui Jun Liu, Tucker

The Board voted to post the following Board rules and amendments upon receipt of the memo of Authority from the Attorney Generals office; the Public Hearing will be held Friday, April 23, 2010 beginning at 10:10 a.m.:

- 345-6-.01 Code of Conduct: The addition of this proposed new rule would set forth a general code of conduct for licensees to practice under.
- 345-10-.04 Unlicensed Practice: The rule provides for the expansion of the current rule to contain current Board policies regarding cease and desist proceedings, fines for unlicensed practice, failure to renew a license and, informing the Board of updated name and contact information.

The Board voted to suspend the following license for failure to repay a student loan:

- Su Won Chang, Woodstock

March: The Board approved the following application for licensure by reinstatement:

- Xuan–Thu Thi Bui, Royston

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis; the Board takes these matters very seriously and applies disciplinary actions and/or sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Massage Therapy Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage.

All public disciplinary action(s) taken by the Board against an active licensee will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, a link to which can be found on the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy website.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy to regulate the licensing and practice of massage therapy. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-24A is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints and allegations of unlicensed practice against licensees. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which are found on the Board website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at: www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.